

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, we were sent here to keep our word with the Contract With America, and that is exactly what we did. Now we plan to keep a contract with our older Americans. Bill Clinton's own Medicare Board of Trustees, which includes the Cabinet members of Mr. Rubin, Secretary Shalala, and Secretary Reich, came out with a report that said that Medicare will be insolvent in the next few years, within 7 years. But have we heard something from the President? I am still listening. I have heard nothing.

This report that came out is not a Republican fact, it is not a Democrat fact. It is the Board of Trustees, and it is a fact.

Now, the Democrats' proposal as well, we had health care reform last year and that had Medicare reforms. If you have a leaky roof, you do not tear off the entire roof, you fix the leak. And that is what we want to do. Republicans are committed to preserve, to protect, and to improve Medicare, not to bury our heads in the sand, and that is exactly what we are going to do.

KEEP MEDICARE SOLVENT

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, our seniors depend on Medicare, and its solvency is a national priority. That is why President Clinton addressed this issue as soon as he took office in 1993.

The omnibus budget bill of 1993 not only reduced the deficit; it also strengthened the Medicare Trust Fund and made it solvent for 3 additional years. President Clinton and the Democrats in Congress did this without one Republican vote. The administration also recognized that Medicare could only be solvent if we have comprehensive health care reform. These initiatives passed out of committee without one Republican vote.

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Now, Mr. Speaker, Republicans are poised to take \$300 billion over 7 years from the Medicare Program. The Republicans plan to use the Medicare Program as a bank for their tax cuts. We must not let this happen. These Medicare cuts will cost seniors \$3,000 over the next 7 years, using up most of their Social Security cost-of-living adjustment.

Chief of Staff Panetta said it well when he said, "No amount of accounting gimmicks, separate accounts, dual budget reconciliations can hide the reality that you," the Republicans, "essentially are calling for the largest Medicare cut in history to pay for tax cuts for the well-off."

We must fight these cuts.

TRADE IMBALANCE WITH JAPAN

(Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor is meeting with Japanese Trade Representative Hashimoto in Canada to discuss United States auto sales in Japan. Last year, as in previous years, the largest share of our trade imbalance with Japan was in the automotive sector. In 1994, this imbalance was about \$37 billion and represented 56 percent of our total trade deficit with Japan.

Japan has the second largest auto market in the world, but has by far the lowest sales of imported cars and trucks of all industrialized nations that manufacture cars.

General Motors has been building cars in the Third District of Kansas since the late 1940's, and I hope they will be there for another 50 years. But to ensure the success of our domestic automobile manufacturers, we must gain access to the second largest auto market in the world.

Right now Japanese auto makers hold 22 percent of the United States market, while the United States "Big Three" has only 1 percent of the Japanese market. United States Trade Representative Kantor should take all steps necessary to level this playing field with Japan. So long as this automotive imbalance exists, we will never be able to reduce our trade deficit with Japan.

WALK AMERICA

(Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 25th anniversary of Walk America, the annual fundraiser for the March of Dimes, and one of the most important walking events in the Nation.

In 1938, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a man who wanted to save future generations from the pain of paralysis that he understood so well, founded the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which later became the March of Dimes.

For almost 60 years, the March of Dimes has been helping America's children live healthier lives. In Wisconsin, grants from the March of Dimes have provided prenatal care for low-income women, bought soccer tickets for children with disabilities, and funded research that has led to breakthroughs in understanding birth defects.

Building a healthy future for our kids is an important part of what this Congress is all about, and the March of Dimes has provided invaluable assistance and dedication for our work in this direction.

I appreciate this opportunity to thank the March of Dimes on behalf of my State and to wish the foundation continued success.

OPENING JAPANESE MARKETS

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it was 10 years ago that MARCY KAPTUR and I met with Japanese officials about opening their markets to United States auto parts. Imports then had less than 1 percent of Japan's protected market. Today, despite incessant American efforts, that figure is only 2.4 percent.

The Japanese sell their automotive products on every United States Main Street, but they make it difficult, often impossible, to sell United States products even on Japanese side streets.

The negotiations that begin today in Vancouver are make it or break it for opening the Japanese market. That is why there is broad support on a bipartisan basis here in Congress and in the U.S. business community, from the Business Roundtable and NAM to semiconductors and motion pictures.

Japan's protected markets undermine the world trading system. Resolution of this issue with Japan will affect this Nation's economic future, the confidence of Americans in their Nation's trade policy.

CIVIL LIBERTIES FOR ALL

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am fascinated with the process by which right-wingers have become devotees of civil liberties. A few years ago, when a lot of them were getting indicted, they became great supporters of such procedural protections as due process and the fifth amendment.

Now we have seen a great rightwing rush, late in life, but I always like conversions, to embrace the principles of free speech. They have now decided that people who say crazy, irresponsible, dangerous things under the first amendment should be allowed to say them. I agree with them. I have always felt that way.

The problem is that they only imperfectly understand that. Because the fact is that the right to say these kinds of things—irresponsible and obnoxious and in some cases threatening—cannot only go to their rightwing caricatures. It goes to the left as well.

I am particularly struck by the fact that many of those who wanted the rapper Ice-T to be shut up and taken off the air, because he talked about killing policemen—and he certainly was, in my judgment, obnoxious and irresponsible—turn around and want to honor G. Gordon Liddy.

Now, they got a little embarrassed after the Oklahoma bombing, so they backed away from Liddy a little bit. But the fact is, there is very little difference morally or in the nature of the rhetoric between Ice-T and G. Gordon